

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are currently pending. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended herein. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of these Claims are respectfully requested.

102 Rejection

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuzawa Patent No. JP402149041A. Applicants have reviewed the recited references and respectfully submit that the present invention as is recited in Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19, and 21 is neither shown nor suggested by Matsuzawa Patent No. JP402149041A.

The Examiner is respectfully directed to independent Claim 1 which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to:

A method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network, said method comprising the steps of: (a) detecting an unforced collision of a data packet during transmission of said data packet by a peripheral component coupled to a network...

Independent Claims 8 and 15 recite limitations similar to those of Claim 1. Claims 2-5, and 7 depend from independent Claim 1. Claims 9-12 and 14 depend from independent Claim 8. Claims 16-19 and 21 depend from independent Claim 15.

Matsuzawa does not anticipate nor render obvious a method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network, said method comprising “detecting an unforced collision of a data packet during transmission of said data packet by a peripheral component coupled to a network” as is recited in independent Claims 1, 8, and 15.

Matsuzawa teaches that when a station in urgent need of a transmission is designated as

“privileged”, the “privileged” station can send a jam signal to a transmission line so that it “causes collision forcedly” if the transmission line is being used. Matsuzawa teaches that this action forces a station using the line to stop its transmission activities temporarily. Nowhere does Matsuzawa disclose that an unforced collision of a data packet be detected during the course of its transmission to trigger the suspension of a peripheral components packet transmitting activities temporarily. Consequently, the Matsuzawa reference simply does not teach the above noted limitation of amended independent Claims 1, 8, and 15. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Matsuzawa reference which teaches that packet collisions are caused forcedly to temporarily suspend the transmitting activities of a network coupled device clearly does not teach the unforced detection of packet collisions as a trigger of such as is recited in amended Claims 1, 8, and 15.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Matsuzawa does not anticipate or render obvious the present Claimed invention as is recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 and as such Claims 1, 8, and 15 traverse the Examiners basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 8, and 15 are in condition for allowance. In addition, Matsuzawa does not anticipate or render obvious the present invention as is recited in Claims 2-5, and 7, 9-12 and 14, and 16-19, and 21 which depend from independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 respectively. Therefore, Claims 2-5, and 7, 9-12, and 14, and 16-19, and 21 are also in condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

103 Rejection

Claims 6, 13, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Matsuzawa Patent No. JP402149041A. Applicants have reviewed the recited references and respectfully submit that the present invention as is recited in Claims 6, 13, 20 is neither shown nor suggested by Matsuzawa Patent No. JP402149041A.

The Examiner is respectfully directed to independent Claim 1 which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to:

A method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network, said method comprising the steps of: (a) detecting an unforced collision of a data packet during transmission of said data packet by a peripheral component coupled to a network...

Independent Claims 8 and 15 recite limitations similar to those of Claim 1. Claims 6 depends from independent Claim 1, Claim 13 depends from independent Claim 8, and Claim 20 depends from independent Claim 15.

Matsuzawa does not anticipate nor render obvious a method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network, said method comprising “detecting an unforced collision of a data packet during transmission of said data packet by a peripheral component coupled to a network” as is recited in amended independent Claims 1, 8, and 15. Matsuzawa teaches that when a station in urgent need of a transmission is designated as “privileged”, the “privileged” station can send a jam signal to a transmission line so that it “causes collision forcedly” if the transmission line is being used. Matsuzawa teaches that this action forces a station using the line to stop its transmission activities temporarily. Nowhere does Matsuzawa disclose that an unforced collision of a data packet be detected during the

course of its transmission to trigger the suspension of a peripheral components packet transmitting activities temporarily. Consequently, the Matsuzawa reference simply does not teach the above noted limitation of Claims 1, 8, and 15. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Matsuzawa reference which teaches that packet collisions are caused forcedly to temporarily suspend the transmitting activities of a network coupled device clearly does not teach the unforced detection of packet collisions as a trigger of such as is recited in amended Claims 1, 8, and 15.

Berkema et al. does not overcome the shortcomings of Matsuzawa noted above. Berkema et al. only shows a backoff scheme for access on a local area network. Berkema et al. does not anticipate nor render obvious a method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network, said method comprising “detecting an unforced collision of a data packet during transmission of said data packet by a peripheral component coupled to a network.” Berkema et al. teaches that the transmission of a message that is already being delayed is deferred further when another message is being transmitted. Nowhere in the Berkema et al. reference is it disclosed that an unforced collision of a data packet be detected during the course of its transmission to trigger the temporary suspension of a peripheral components packet transmitting activities. Consequently, the Berkema et al. reference simply does not overcome the shortcomings of the Matsuzawa reference noted above. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Berkema et al. alone or in combination with Matsuzawa does not teach the unforced detection of packet collisions as a trigger of such as is recited in amended Claims 1, 8, and 15.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Matsuzawa does not anticipate or render obvious the present Claimed invention as is recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 and as such Claims 1, 8, and 15 traverse the Examiners basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 8, and 15 are in condition for allowance. In addition, Matsuzawa does not anticipate nor suggest the present invention as is recited in Claims 6, 13, and 20 which depend from independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 respectively, and that Claims 6, 13, and 20 are also in condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

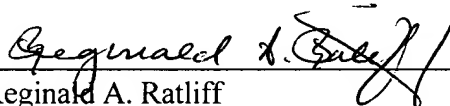
In light of the above-listed amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the remaining Claims.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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CLAIMS

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) A method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting [a] an unforced collision of a data packet during transmission of said data packet by a peripheral component coupled to a network;
- (b) determining a restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is substantially equal to or less than a restricted time value; and
- (c) causing said peripheral component to wait said restricted back off time before trying to retransmit said data packet over said network.

8. (Amended) A computer system comprising:

- a processor;
- an addressable data bus coupled to said processor;
- a computer useable memory coupled to communicate with said processor for performing a method for providing priority to a peripheral component coupled to a network, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) detecting [a] an unforced collision of a data packet during transmission of said data packet by a peripheral component coupled to a network;
 - (b) determining a restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is substantially equal to or less than a restricted time value; and
 - (c) causing said peripheral component to wait said restricted back off time before trying to retransmit said data packet over said network.

15. (Amended) A computer readable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for causing a peripheral component to perform the steps of:

(a) detecting [a] an unforced collision of a data packet during transmission of said data packet by a peripheral component coupled to a network;

(b) determining a restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is substantially equal to or less than a restricted time value; and

(c) causing said peripheral component to wait said restricted back off time before trying to retransmit said data packet over said network.